



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yukihiro KOMATSU
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING
METHOD AND VISUAL INSPECTION SYSTEM
Appl. No.: 09/672,901
Filing Date: 09/29/2000
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2623

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JAN 09 2003
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.97 and § 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to Applicant's attention during a search of the corresponding European application. A copy of the Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

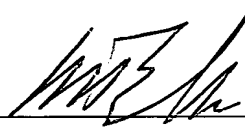
Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 7, 2003

By



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